Agenda Date: 9/13/04 Agenda Item: VIII B



STATE OF NEW JERSEY Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY)	<u>ORDER</u>
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF KEYSPAN COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION FOR)	OPDER

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq. and Section 253 of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. §151 et seq., and by letters dated February 10, 2004 and August 9, 2004, KeySpan Communications Corporation ("Petitioner" or "KeySpan") filed the Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting authority to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey.

KeySpan is a privately held corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. KeySpan is a wholly owned subsidiary of KeySpan Corporation, a publicly traded company listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KSE. Petitioner's principal offices are located at 1377 Motor Parkway, Suite 206, Islandia, New York 11749.

Petitioner has submitted copies of its Certification of Incorporation from the State of New York and its New Jersey Certificate of Authority to Operate as a Foreign Corporation. According to the Petition, KeySpan was formed to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey. Petitioner states that on January 12, 2004, Petitioner was granted authority to provide resale and facilities-based telecommunications services in the State of New York. Petitioner states that it has not been denied authority to provide telecommunications services in any state nor has its authority been

revoked in any jurisdiction. Petitioner further states that it does not have any pending civil or criminal proceedings against it in any jurisdiction.

Petitioner seeks authority to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey. Petitioner initially intends to provide private line intrastate broadband services to other carriers and enterprise (corporate) customers through resale and use of its own facilities. Petitioner requests authority to operate as a facilities-based carrier on a statewide basis and will install additional facilities as deemed necessary or desirable consistent with its business plans. Petitioner states that because its current business plan does not propose to offer local exchange dial-tone service, there is no immediate need for Petitioner to enter into an interconnection agreement with an incumbent local exchange carrier. Petitioner states that it will file a tariff for board approval and that it maintains a toll-free number for its customer service inquiries.

Petitioner requests a waiver of N.J.S.A. 48:3-7.8 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.3, which require that books and records be kept within the State of New Jersey and be maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA"), respectively. In the interest of efficiency and to prevent undue burden, Petitioner requests permission to maintain its books and records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and to keep all books, records, documents and other writings incident to the conduct of Petitioner's business in the State of New Jersey at Petitioner's corporate offices in Islandia, New York. Petitioner also states, upon written notice from the Board and/or Board Staff, it will provide its books and records at such time and place within New Jersey as the Board may designate and will pay any reasonable expenses for examination of the records.

Petitioner asserts that approval of its Petition will further the public interest by expanding the availability of competitive telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner also asserts that approval of this Petition will provide New Jersey customers with access to new technologies and service choices and will permit customers to achieve increased efficiencies and cost savings.

With regard to its technical and managerial qualifications, KeySpan states that it possesses the technical capability and managerial qualifications to operate and manage its telecommunications operations in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner has submitted the professional biographies of its key personnel who, according to KeySpan, are well qualified to execute its business plans and have extensive managerial and technical experience in the telecommunications industry.

DISCUSSION

On February 8, 1996, the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, codified in scattered sections of 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §151 <u>et seq.</u>, was signed into law, removing barriers to competition by providing that:

[n]o State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service.

[47 U.S.C. §253(a)].

Therefore, Board approval of Petitioner's entry into the telecommunications market place is required, assuming Petitioner meets all other requirements, including, but not limited to, a demonstration of financial, technical and managerial integrity.

In considering this Petition, the Board recognizes its obligation not to prohibit entry into intrastate telecommunications markets. 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §253(a). The Board also considers the New Jersey State Legislature's declaration that it is the policy of the State to provide diversity in the supply of telecommunications services and the Legislature's findings that "competition will promote efficiency, reduce regulatory delay, and foster productivity and innovation" and "produce a wider selection of services at competitive market-based prices." <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21.16(a)(4); <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21.16(b)(1) and (3).

Therefore, having reviewed KeySpan's Petition and the information supplied in support thereof, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the Petitioner is in compliance with the Board's filing requirements to provide telecommunications services in New Jersey. Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY AUTHORIZES</u> the Petitioner to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey subject to approval of its tariff. The Board also <u>FINDS</u> that in accordance with <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-59 and 48:2-60 and <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:27E-61 and 52:27E-62, the Petitioner is subject to an annual assessment by both the Board and Division of Ratepayer Advocate, respectively. The Board notes that the Petitioner will not be permitted to provide telecommunications services until a tariff is approved by the Board.

The Board <u>HEREBY</u> <u>ORDERS</u> that:

- 1) Petitioner file its tariff for Board approval.
- 2) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.3, Petitioner shall file an annual report as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before March 31 of the following year. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.3, if Petitioner fails to file an annual report by the due date, Petitioner shall be subject to a penalty of \$5.00 for each day thereafter until such report is filed.
- 3) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-59 and 48:2-60, Petitioner shall file a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form (AR3-1) as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before June 1 of the following year.

On or before February 1st of each year, the Petitioner will receive from the Division of Audits an annual report package and a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form for the preceding calendar year. The purpose of these documents is to report the Petitioner's financial information and gross intrastate revenues from operations as of December 31 of each year. The annual report and a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form are due on or before March 31 and June 1 of the following year, respectively. If Petitioner does not receive these documents, it is Petitioner's responsibility to obtain them from the Board. It is also the Petitioner's responsibility to ensure timely filing of these reports.

Regarding the Petitioner's request for waivers of the Board rules, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the Petitioner has demonstrated good cause why the Board should grant relief from its requirements

that the Petitioner maintain its books and records in accordance with USOA and within New Jersey. Therefore, subject to the Petitioner's continuing responsibility to provide the Board books and records upon 48 hours notice, and in the manner requested, and to pay to the Board any reasonable expenses or charges incurred by the Board for any investigation or examination of these books and records, the Board APPROVES the Petitioner's request for the exemptions from maintaining its books and records in accordance with USOA and in New Jersey.

DATED: 9/14/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

uM. For

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

CAROL J. MURPHY **COMMISSIONER**

P. P. Ellerg Ly

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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! HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF KEYSPAN COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION FOR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. TE04020089

SERVICE LIST

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